WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of inhibiting activation of CTL and NK cells, said method comprising:

combining said cells with an activation inhibiting amount of a compound comprising an oligopeptide of at least 6 amino acids comprising a contiguous sequence of the HLA-B α_1 domain or species analog thereof, wherein amino acids 84 to 86 are YYW;

whereby activation of said cells is inhibited.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said oligopeptide is of at least 8 amino acids and amino acids 83 to 86 are RYYW.

3. A method according to Claim 2 wherein said oligopeptide comprises at least a total of 6 contiguous amino acids from said HLA-B α_1 domain joined to said tetrad.

4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said compound is a dimer of said oligopeptide.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of said amino acids is a D-stereoisomer.

6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said combining is in the presence of a viable solid organ or viable second cells other than CTL and NK cells.

7. A method of inhibiting activation of CTL and NK cells, said method comprising:

combining said cells with an activation inhibiting amount of a compound comprising an oligopeptide of at least 6 amino acids, including the triad YYW and comprising a contiguous sequence of the sequence:
aa^{70} aa^{71} Q aa^{73} aa^{74} R aa^{76} aa^{77} L aa^{79} aa^{80} aa^{81} aa^{82} aa^{83} Y Y W aa^{87} aa^{88} aa^{89} aa^{90} aa^{91}.

wherein:

aa^{70} is Q, H, S, N or K;

aa^{71} is an aliphatic neutral amino acid;

aa^{73} is T or A;

aa^{74} is Y or H;

aa^{76} is aliphatic neutral amino acid;

aa^{77} is S or N;

aa^{79} is R or G;

aa^{80} is T, I, N or an aromatic amino acid;

aa^{81} is an aliphatic non-polar amino acid;

aa^{82} is R, L or an aromatic amino acid;

aa^{83} is G or R;

aa^{87} is any amino acid;

aa^{88} is an aromatic amino acid or aliphatic amino acid of from 5 to 6 carbon atoms;

aa^{89} is is any amino acid;

aa^{90} is any amino acid; and

aa^{91} is any amino acid;

whereby activation of said cells is inhibited.

8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein said oligopeptide is of at least 8 amino acids, is the dimer thereof, or at least one of the amino acids is the D-stereoisomer and is of the formula:

R V/E N/D L R I A/L L R/E Y Y W Q/D S

wherein the backslashes intend that either amino acid may be present at that position.

9. A method according to Claim 7, wherein said combining is in the presence of a viable solid organ or cells other than CTL or NK cells.

10. In a method for transplanting a donor mammalian organ or cells other than as part of a viable organ to a mammalian recipient, which method comprises:

isolating said donor organ or cells from said donor and implanting said donor organ or cells in said recipient, the improvement which comprises at least one of the following steps:

(a) combining said organ or cells prior to implanting in said mammalian recipient with an activation inhibiting amount of a compound comprising an oligopeptide of at least 6 amino acids comprising a contiguous sequence of the HLA-B α_1 domain or species analog thereof, wherein amino acids 84 to 86 are YYW; or

(b) administering to said mammalian recipient in a period extending from prior to subsequent to implanting said donor organ or cells an activation inhibiting amount of a compound comprising an oligopeptide of at least 6 amino acids comprising a contiguous sequence of the HLA-B α_1 domain or species analog thereof, wherein amino acids 84 to 86 are YYW.

11. A method according to Claim 10, wherein said compound is of the formula:

R V/E N/D L R I A/L L R/E Y Y W Q/D S

wherein the backslashes intend that either amino acid may be present at that position.

12. A method according to Claim 11, wherein said compound is a peptide of not more than 20 amino acids and comprises the amino acid sequence N L R I A L R Y Y W.

13. A compound comprising an oligopeptide of at least 6 amino acids comprising a contiguous sequence of the HLA-B α_1 domain or species analog thereof, wherein amino acids 84 to 86 are YYW.

14. A compound comprising an oligopeptide of at least 8 amino acids comprising the triad YYW and comprising a contiguous sequence of the sequence:

aa^{70} aa^{71} Q T aa^{74} R aa^{76} aa^{77} L aa^{79} aa^{80} aa^{81} aa^{82} aa^{83} Y Y W aa^{87} aa^{88} aa^{89} aa^{90} aa^{91}.

wherein:

aa^{70} is Q, H, S, N or K;

aa^{71} is an aliphatic neutral amino acid;

aa^{74} is D, Y or H;

aa^{76} is E or V;

aa^{77} is D, S or N;

aa^{79} is R or G;

aa^{80} is T, I, N or an aromatic amino acid;

aa^{81} is an aliphatic non-polar amino acid;

aa^{82} is R, L or an aromatic amino acid;

aa^{83} is G or R;

aa^{87} is any amino acid;

aa^{88} is an aromatic amino acid or aliphatic amino acid of from 5 to 6 carbon atoms;

aa^{89} is is any amino acid;

aa^{90} is any amino acid; and

aa^{91} is any amino acid;

the dimer or at least one amino acid being the D-stereoisomer.

15. A compound according to Claim 14, wherein said compound is of the formula:

R V/E N/D L R I A/L L R/E Y Y W Q/D S

wherein the backslashes intend that either amino acid may be present at that position.

16. A compound according to Claim 15 of at least 10 amino acids including the sequence N L R I A L R Y Y W.

17. A compound comprising at least two oligopeptides according to Claim 14 joined at their C terminus to a polylysine.